

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A mobile agent management apparatus comprising:

a plurality of agent servers; and

a registration server for maintaining location information of mobile agents,

wherein each of said plurality of agent servers comprises:

means for maintaining a history of movement of each of said mobile agents including a counter for accumulating a count of the accumulated number of movements for each of said mobile agents; and

request means for periodically generating requests for updating location information of each of said agents, said requests including at least a mobile agent identifier and said accumulated number of movements for said mobile agent, to renew location information at said registration server.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein each of said agent servers further comprises comparator means for comparing the count in said counter with a predetermined threshold.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the request generator of each of said agent servers generates a request to said registration server for updating location information when the count of the accumulated number of movements of a corresponding mobile agent exceeds a predetermined threshold.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said registration server comprises at least one register for maintaining accumulated number of movements and locations of each of said mobile agents in an associated manner and renews said location information of each of said mobile agents only upon receipt of requests for updating location information associated with a higher accumulated number of movements.

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6. (previously presented) A method for managing locations of mobile agents by using a plurality of agent servers and a registration server for maintaining locations of mobile agents comprising the steps of:

an each of said agent servers;

maintaining history of movement of each of said mobile agents including accumulating a count of the number of movements for each of said mobile agents; and

periodically generating requests for updating and deleting registries, said requests including at least a mobile agent identifier and said count of the accumulated number of movements for said mobile agent; and

at said registration server, renewing location information of each of said mobile agents kept by said registration server with said requests.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 further comprising comparing said count of the accumulated number of movements to a threshold number of movements.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8 wherein said generating is done when said count of the accumulated number of movements exceeds said threshold number of movements.